

# BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

## For Fiscal Year 2022

 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
 RECEIVED: 03/17/2022 3:57:43 PM

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):  <b>Andromeda Communications, Inc</b>  <b>d/b/a Andromeda Fiber</b>  <b>17900 West Beres Rd</b>  <b>New Berlin, WI 53146</b>	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymerit.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymerit.aspx</a> . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.  Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</b>
	Contact for further information:  <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a>
	Date:  March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>	
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>	
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)  <b>Carson Moll</b>	Title  <b>Owner</b>
Phone ( 224 ) 254-0836	
Signature of Authorized Representative  	Date  <b>March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>

# SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>Andromeda Communications, Inc</b> <b>d/b/a Andromeda Fiber</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$ 6,931,675.00</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>82-2708758</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar)
Contact Name and Title <b>Carson Moll Owner</b>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$ 6,931,675.00</b>
Telephone Number <b>224-254-0836</b>	Project Name <b>FTTH- Somers</b>
E-mail Address(es) <b>andromedafiber@gmail.com</b>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>FTTH- XSGPON</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) <b>Last mile</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name <b>Carson Moll</b>	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number <a href="mailto:andromedafiber@gmail.com">andromedafiber@gmail.com</a> <b>224-254-0836</b>
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <b>Public-Private partnership</b>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>We want to construct and build a fiber to the home network to serve all residents and businesses and leave no house or business left behind. Sixty-six percent of the town is underserved and does not have access to speeds higher than 24 mbps DSL.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>2Gbps</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>2Gbps</b>

Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>300 Mbps</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>300 Mbps</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Kenosha</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Somers</b>
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve <b>Spectrum 63% of town</b> <b>Viasat and Hughesnet are the only two other options.</b> <b>Source : <a href="https://www.internetadvisor.com/Somers-wisconsin">https://www.internetadvisor.com/Somers-wisconsin</a></b>	
Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no)  <b>yes</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)  <b>no</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access).	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).  <b>2500</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ?	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ?  <b>950 homes</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) <b>no</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) <b>Yes, we will be joining the Affordable Connectivity Plan.</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no)  <b>no</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no)  <b>no</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no)	<b>no</b>

## FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

### Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

### Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
<b>Andromeda Fiber</b>	<b>BB App-Somers FTTH</b>

### Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees			\$ 14,121,576.00
2	Equipment		\$ 597,250.00	\$ 1,194,500.00
3	Supplies			
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)		\$ 190,000.00	\$ 380,000.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			
6	Travel			
7	Other-Budget Buffer			
		\$ -	\$ 787,250.00	\$ 15,696,076.00
		5.0% match requested		

### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ -



## **Andromeda Communications Grant – Sommers, WI**

### **1.0 General Information**

Andromeda was founded in 2016 and since built up capital as the founder had the goal to build and construct and establish itself as a strong fiber to the home company in the Midwest.

### **Executive Summary**

Internet with speed of 100 mbps or higher has yet to reach an ubiquitous and unfortunately that is the case in Kenosha County, Racine County and even in the biggest county in the state of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County. There are many homes, businesses, and even entire business parks that only have access to slow DSL or are handcuffed by just one option with speeds higher than 24 mbps. These are areas that the traditional phone/cable providers handcuffed the consumers with historically high rates and they have a monopoly on the area which subsequently yields subpar service and customer service. This leaves thousands of consumers and businesses without affordable broadband in the county. Additionally, according to the Broadband Map a vast majority of the rest of the County only has access to one broadband provider that offers over 100 Mbps (Spectrum Cable) with another choice of fixed wireless and when there is another choice it is DSL copper with speeds up to 24 Mbps, just missing the threshold of adequate internet defined by the FCC at 25 mbps. From the beginning to the current state the pandemic has taught us internet is more important now than ever, and is a mandatory must have like electricity. Recent history has taught us that Fiber to the home is the most reliable and does not go in and out like a bad argument like the other technologies. Reliable Fiber to the home connectivity is paramount with the future of homes converting to a smart home with a plethora of smart devices . It is Andromeda Fiber's goal and ambition to provide Kenosha county towns villages the only future proof technology that provides unlimited bandwidth coupled with phenomenal upload speeds, Fiber to the Home!

## **2.0 Mandatory Requirements**

### **2.1 Applicant identification and contact information**

**The name of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.**

Name of Entity: Andromeda Communications, Inc

Mailing Address: 17900 West Beres rd, New Berlin, WI 53224

Telephone: 224-254-0836

Contact: Carson Moll, President, [carsonmoll@andromedafiber.com](mailto:carsonmoll@andromedafiber.com)

**2.2 Requirement. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).**

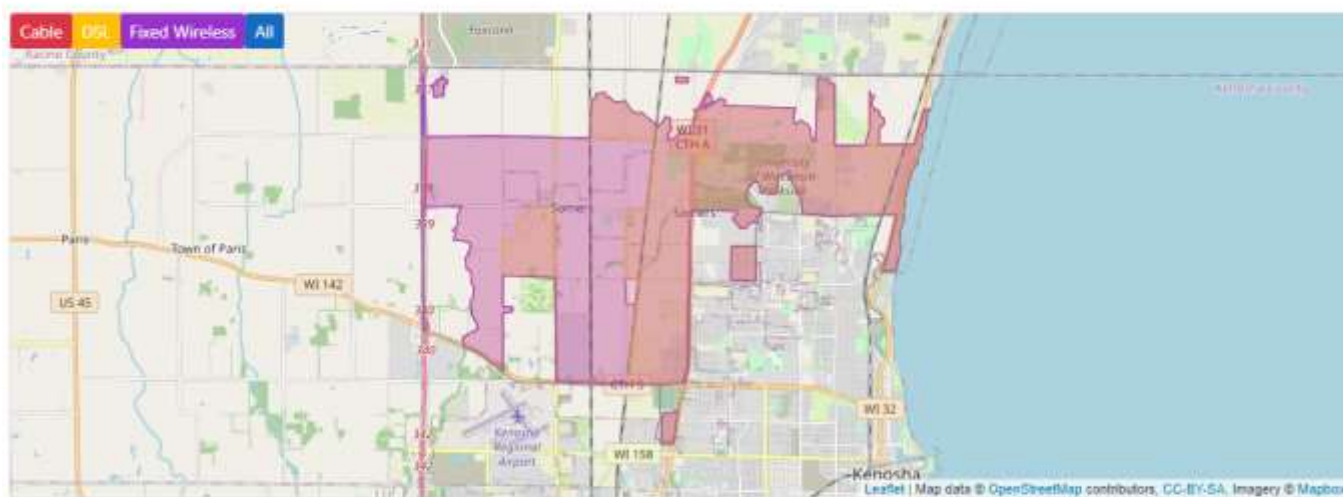
Andromeda Communications, Inc d/b/a Andromeda Fiber is a Wisconsin corporation and files FCC form 477 reports to the FCC regarding Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and deployment. Andromeda Communications utility ID is 11012.

## 2.2 Description of the project

### a. A map of the area of the state that will be affected by the proposed project.

Andromeda Fiber will cover all eligible areas of Kenosha and Racine County.

### Internet Service Map in Somers, WI



Spectrum 62 % of Somers  
Hughesnet and Viasat  
only 1

**b. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed area of service.**

Andromeda Fiber will cover all areas designated as under-served and the whole town or village.

**c. A description of how the proposed project will increase broadband access in the project area, including the following information: The proposed project will increase broadband access as follows:**

The fiber network that will be constructed will allow each resident to access up to 2Gbps downstream and 2Gbps upstream and the network itself will allow for future turnkey upgradeable bandwidth immediately. The robust bandwidth will allow citizens to work from home will improve virtual healthcare and allow for an enhanced internet experience without buffering with streaming, surfing and gaming. The construction will provide symmetrical gigabit fiber to home internet to 1,125 residential single-family homes in areas where no fiber to home internet is available or offered. The network will provides fiber optic internet speeds to businesses in the proposed project area.

3) Provides fiber optic internet to schools, hospitals, and government entities in the proposed project area.

**d. A statement indicating the specific broadband technology that will be used, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure. This statement may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.**

The network will be a last mile network in which Andromeda Fiber will enlist Nokia 25GS-PON technology, which allows up to 25 Gbps Passive Optical Network down and up for network speeds, which yields a very robust future proof network to serve today, tomorrow the very far future. The network will give each customer their own dedicated fiber line to the node of the network. The 25GS-PON is newer technology that sets the community up for the future long term and can facilitate 25Gbps symmetrical data transfer.



The proposed project will utilize Nokia GPON technology, specifically 25GS-PON and will be a last mile project where fiber is ran right into the house in the gateway.

<https://www.nokia.com/blog/why-25g-pon-matters/>

The project targets last-mile customers. The following packages will be offered:

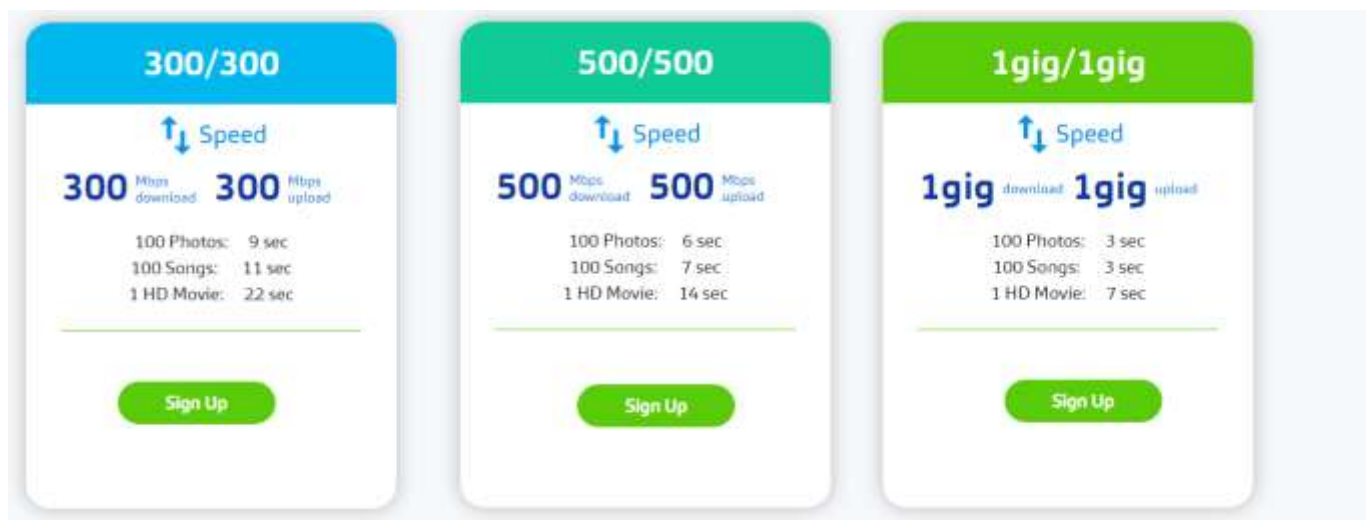
Residential Single-Family Homes

300 Mbps x 300 Mbps – \$50 per month

500 Mbps x 500 Mbps – \$70 per month

1000 Mbps x 1000 Mbps - \$90 per month

2000 Mbps X 2000 Mbps- \$130 per month



e. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project.

If the grant application for this project is approved, we forecast the following deployment schedule:

Months 1 – 2 Planning, engineering, and testing

Months 3 – 6 Deploying Phase 1 of network

Months 7 – 9 Deploying Phase 2 of network

Months 10 – 12 Deploying Phase 3 of network

## 2.3 Itemized statement of funding request

a. An itemized statement of the investment and construction costs of the proposed project. This statement should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, and salary information or similar information for any labor and training expenses associated with the project. This statement should also indicate whether the facilities involved would be owned, rented or leased.

See Exhibit A for a summary of construction costs.

b. Requirement. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers.

The broadband grant funds requested within this application will be utilized solely for the cost of building out a Fiber to the Home network in the project area. Funds from the grant will not be allocated for monthly recurring operating costs for broadband or telecommunication services.

For purposes of this grant program, subsidy means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider. All grant money received will be used specifically for the construction of the fiber to the home network as proposed in this application and will not be used for other expenses.

Details shown in Exhibit A

c. A summary showing the revenue source, including grant funds and matching funds, for each expenditure itemized above.

Revenue Source		Credit Facility
Holding Company	Holding company	\$ 10,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 10,000,000.00

**d. Requirement. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application.**

#### **Exhibit A**

Andromeda Fiber agrees to demonstrate that all grant funds requested in this Application have been used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by this Application. Andromeda Fiber will enlist one of the biggest fiber construction contracting companies, Cable Gaines, to build out and terminate the networks to make them ready for customer installs as soon as possible.

#### **2.4 Priority factors supporting the application**

- a. Matching funds. A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any.**

Andromeda Fiber will contribute at least a 50% of the project hardware costs as well as all labor costs.

- b. A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve.**

Andromeda Fiber proposes to cover all eligible areas of Paddock Lake based on the Broadband Map. Spectrum Cable and Frontier claim to provide cable and DSL service respectively to the entire area, however, not all locations are serviceable by either or both companies

- c. Project impact. A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known.**

TOWN	SQ MILES		Homes Passed
SOMERS	25		2500

**f. Scalability. A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:**

Andromeda Fiber is committed to expanding coverage and capacity both inside and well beyond the proposed project area. Streaming TV Service an unlimited Voice in conjunction with cell service to establish bundle options as well.

**g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.**

None

**A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.**

Our Fiber to the home network will not impair any providers but will only spur competition, a superior choice and force the incumbents to step the service up which fosters a win-win for everyone in the community and everyone involved.

## **2.5 Other information supporting the application**

**a. A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the state and elsewhere.**

Andromeda Fiber is new aspiring fiber to the home company started from the owner selling for the incumbents and seeing their shortfalls and lackluster approach for serving citizens and businesses.

Without competition there no wielding mechanism to drive continuous innovation and service to the customer. Many of incumbents would install quickly but not roll a truck quickly when the service was down. There was no one else to drive the competition and thereby instill a sense of urgency. The owner has worked in the telecommunications industry since 2006 and operated a small cable system down south in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana but recognized Fiber to the home is a superior technology wants to construct a network close to home.

**b. The project will provide the following economic development impact: -**

Andromeda Fiber will create up to 20 or more jobs if this project is approved - Providing broadband in underserved business parks will attract businesses to the Paddock Lake market - Having Fiber residential services available will help local businesses attract and retain talent One- hundred percent Paddock Lake internet market is controlled by out of state corporations. The profits from these providers flow out of the state. Andromeda Fiber as a local company, keeps all profits in-state and re-invests in the community. From the network being constructed economic impact will be a result of not only speed but just as important, reliability. This allow the citizens to work from home, utilize virtual health care while seeing an upward trend in programs and services utilized.

**FTTH- Somers,  
WI**



		Total Units	Price per unit	Total Cost
Direct Bury 24"-36"	Direct Bury /4 Fiber drop	560000	3.31	1853600
Direct Bury 48"-60"	Direct Bury / 48 Fiber drop	573696	2.32	1330975
	Direct Bury/ 96 Fiber drop	524160	2.66	1394266
	Direct Bury/ 144 Fiber drop	664640	3.41	2266422
	Direct Bury/288 Fiber drop		-	
	Direct Bury/ 576 Fiber drop		-	
	Direct Bury/ 864 Fiber drop		-	
	Direct Bury/ 144 Fiber drop & 48 Fiber drop		-	
	Direct Bury/288 Fiber drop &48 Fiber drop			
	Direct Bury/ 576 Fiber drop & 48 Fiber drop	83200	5.18	430976
	Direct Bury/ 864 Fiber drop & 48 Fiber drop		5.33	
	Add 4 drop to mainline	4000	1.09	4360
	Add 1/2 interduct to mainline	4000	1.09	4360
Pull Fiber in Duct	BFO Coil	291520	0.55	160336
	Pull 4 Fiber in 1/2 inch multiduct		1.51	
	Pull 48 Fiber in 1.25" duct	48640	1.67	81228.8
	Pull 96 Fiber in 1.25" duct	17280	2.01	34732.8

	Pull 144 Fiber in 1.25" duct		2.83	
	Pull 288 Fiber in 2" duct		3.26	
	Pull 576 Fiber in 2" duct		3.49	
	Pull 864 Fiber in 2" duct			
Directional Bore	Directional Bore in 1-1.25" in Duct		9.7	
	Directional Bore in 2-1.25" in Duct	65920	12.1	797632
	Directional Bore in 3-1.25" in Duct	40000	13.45	538000
	Directional Bore in 4-1.25" in Duct		17.3	
	Directional Bore 1-2" Duct		10.63	
	Directional Bore 1-2" & 1-1.25" in duct		13.1	
	Directional Bore 1-2" & 2-1.25" in duct		14.55	
	Directional Bore 1-2" & 3-1.25" in duct		17.82	
	Directional Bore 1-2" & 4-1.25" in duct		20.05	
	Directional Bore 4 fiber drop	3200	8.71	27872
	Back Hoe/ ft	960	9.43	9052.8
	XZBGF	9	176.4	1587.6
	BM 72 Black Top SQ FT	90	98	8820
	BM 72 Concrete SQ FT	18	110	1980
Handhole	Set Handhole small	1440	496.36	714758.4
	Set Handhole Medium	1440	713.64	1027642
	Set Handhole Large	42	1610	67620
	Enter Handhole	19	150	2850
	18" Flower pot/multiduct	96	155	14880
	C&D Splice Case Install & Splice	2915	675	1967625
	Misc Splicing		0	
Misc	NID, housing, cane,Mount , Splice	1520	125	190000
	XGS-PON Taps/Ports	2870	350	1004500
	Install ONT 2 hrs labor X \$60/hr	1520	250	380000
	Engineering	9	80,000	720000
	5 % Budget Buffer	3	220,000	660000

Total Project

Andromeda Fiber will cover all labor costs associated with this project using internally generated cash.

Andromeda Fiber will also cover all client CPE costs associated with this project using internally generated cash.